




Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) are goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests. NWFPs and similar terms such as "minor", "secondary" and "non-timber" forest products (NTFPs) have emerged as umbrella expressions for the vast array of both animal and plant products other than wood derived from forests or forest tree species.

Dear readers,

Welcome to our first issue for 2014, which will focus on the institutional dimensions of NWFPs and the degree to which legal and institutional frameworks are effective. Sarah A. Laird, Rachel P. Wynberg and Rebecca J. McLain, experts in wild product governance, look at the policy environment surrounding NWFPs. In an article on governing Brazil nut harvesting in the Peruvian Amazon. Elsewhere, two FAO projects in Central Africa are (1) exploring Participatory Wildlife Management and (2) providing technical support to bolster legal, institutional and organizational frameworks on NWFPs in the region. Further north, the EU and FAO are partnering on an article on plant extractivism. Brazilian agricultural economist Alfredo Homma urges decision makers to develop policies that support the domestic market for wild products.

Readers are reminded to send contributions (including recent papers, projects, workshops, articles, etc.) to: non-wood-news@fao.org (mailto:non-wood-news@fao.org)

HIGHLIGHTS

		
http://www.tebtebba.org/index.php/content/276-sustaining-a-enhancing-forests-through-traditional-resource-management-volume-2	http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415507134/	ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/ak4141e
Sustaining & Enhancing Forests Through Traditional Resource Management	Wild Product Governance	Central African Guidelines on NWFPs (FR)
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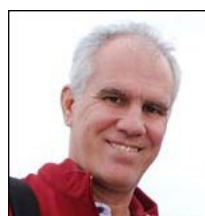
SPECIAL FEATURE

Governance of NTFPs: ensuring effective laws and policies in practice,¹ Sarah A. Laird, Rachel P. Wynberg & Rebecca J. McLain

Non-timber forest products play a significant role in livelihoods around the world, providing critical subsistence and trade goods for forest and other communities. The governance of this important but broad category of products has been ineffective or counter-productive to the objectives of sustainability and livelihood security. This is due to a lack of definition of species and products covered by regulations, and continues to encompass an absence of strategies, clarity of objectives, poorly formulated laws and policies.

In most countries, a strategic approach to regulating the NTFP sector is uncommon. The tendency is for NTFP laws to be drafted in response to a real crisis, particularly when a species moves from local trade and subsistence to large-scale commercial trade. For example, in Brazil, the demand for raw material required governments to respond rapidly by introducing stringent permits for wild harvesting. When cultivated material became more widely available a few years later, pressure on wild populations was reduced and governments

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INTERVIEW

Dr. Manuel R. Guariguata, CIFOR, on Brazil nut harvesting in the Peruvian Amazon

"Formalization does not necessarily mean good management and in the context of timber and Brazil nut harvesting, formalization can be a double-edged sword."



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Dr. Manuel R. Guariguata

REGIONAL DISPATCHES

To Regulate or Not to Regulate: The Case of Bushmeat Use in Central Africa

The idea of granting local and indigenous peoples rights to control and manage the forests they live in is not new and is arguably a time-honored practice. Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) or "Participatory Biodiversity Conservation" (PBC), the concepts behind the mid-1990s at least, steadily gaining momentum in recent years viable strategies for both sustainably using wildlife resources for food security and ecosystems and biodiversity.

Against this backdrop, an FAO Global Environment Facility (GEF) project in the Congo Basin has set out to test and implement a new approach to bushmeat species through PWM. The project, which kicked off in 2012, is based on the premise that wildlife and associated bushmeat use is best regulated by local people in four countries across the Congo Basin – including Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic – by (1) developing a regional wildlife management policy; (2) developing PWM tools; and (3) building institutional capacity for PWM of major stakeholders.

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Star Tree Project Looks at European Policies and Legislation on NWFPs

Recent studies have demonstrated that legislation, property regimes, policy goals and financial instruments influence production, marketing, use and innovation in the NWFP sector can arguably be positively affected by an appropriate legal framework. On this premise, FAO, as one of 20 partners working to implement the European Union's (EU) [Star Tree Project](#) (<http://www.star-tree-project.org/>) to identify and analyze existing NWFP-related policies and legislation within the EU at varying scales (EU-, Member State- and national level).

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FAO Continues long-standing support to Central African countries to design and introduce a legal and regulatory framework for NWFP use

use

Ousseynou Ndoye is the Regional Project coordinator for FAO and *Paul Vantomme* is a Senior Forestry Officer at FAO.

In 2005, at the request of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), FAO began offering technical support to the regional institution to promote NWFPs and enhance their contribution to food security, with financial assistance from Germany.¹ A central feature of this work, which continues to this day, is to assist the countries to identify and implement policy measures to promote the sustainable management of NWFPs and to equally share the benefits from their crucial role. Legal and regulatory frameworks play in determining the socio-economic and ecological potential of NWFPs.²

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Plant Extractivism in Amazonia: Where are we headed?

Alfredo Homma is an agricultural economist and researcher at *Embrapa Amazonia Oriental, Belem, Para, Brazil*

"There is a misconception that all non-wood forest products are sustainable. This is a big mistake because not all economic extraction ensures biological sustainability."

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Last year marked 25 years since the murder of the trade union leader Chico Mendes (1944-1988), a global icon associated with the creation of extractivism in the region, there remains widespread perception at a policy level that plant extractivism is the development model for the Amazon. Extractivism has a long history when the market is small or large stocks exist in the wild. When the market starts to grow, the extractive sector is unable to support the growth in demand levels, emergence of economic alternatives, development of synthetic substitutes, etc.

It was because of the limitation of production to meet consumption that mankind began, ten thousand years ago, the process of domestication of plants and hundreds of animals in the world which have been domesticated. We simply could not be feeding over 7 billion people by simply collecting products from the wild.

The English were the first to realize that the world could not depend on the rubber collected in the wild, sending, in 1876, 70 thousand rubber tree seeds: rubber from Southeast Asia, the Amazon entered into a downward economic, social and political spiral because investments were made only in the colonial extractive exploitation, and the insistence on this model makes collectors, producers and consumers lose out on a great opportunity to generate income from the forest.

It is an illusion to think that we will be able to survive exclusively by collecting forest products. We must give attention to the areas that have been cleared (the size of Spain or more than twice the size of Germany. To keep our forests intact, we must look at the areas already deforested and learn from experience (aromatic, medicinal, insecticides, wood, etc.). Governments should therefore lead the way to also develop policies that support the domestication of plants and animals more readily available, for example, local people can explore domestication to vary their livelihood options.

There is a misconception that all non-wood forest products are sustainable. This is a big mistake because not all economic extraction ensures biological sustainability.

Plant extractivism was very important in the past, continues to be in the present, but we need to think ahead, to democratize the products of Amazonian plant extractivism and hence legislation, which also varies from country to country. The NWFP sector in particular cannot do without policies aimed at the sound and realistic management of the forest.

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PRODUCT WATCH

Sustainable harvesting of *Himatanthus drasticus* (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10661-013-3378-x%20>)